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Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 2nd to 6th, 10th and 28th meetings, from 6 to 8 and on 14 and 30 October 2003. At its 2nd to 6th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 105 jointly with items 106 and 107. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/58/SR.2-6, 10 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/58/172);

(b) Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué and declaration adopted by the thirty-fourth meeting of the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204);

(c) Letter dated 1 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the

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Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2003 (A/58/413).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made a statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.2).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/58/SR.2).

6. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the delegations of Switzerland, Egypt, the Sudan, Benin, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Canada, Cuba, Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Gambia, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar and Nigeria took part (see A/C.3/58/SR.2).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.9 and Rev.1

7. At the 10th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Chile, on behalf of Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/58/L.9), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

"*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits,

"*Also recalling* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Noting* that the Commission for Social Development will consider at its forty-third session in 2005 as its priority theme 'Review of the further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly',

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* the need to take effective measures to implement the commitments made by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social

Development and the Programme of Action, which established a new consensus to place people at the centre of development policies and pledged to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration so as to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

"3. *Also reaffirms* the decisions on further action and initiatives to accelerate social development for all, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session and contained in the further initiatives for social development;

"4. *Emphasizes* that in addition to social policies, progress in the realization of development goals such as the eradication of poverty, social justice, equality and social integration and the promotion and protection of human rights require supportive and coherent short-term and long-term economic policies at the national and international levels;

"5. *Also emphasizes* the need for a meaningful integration of economic and social policies at all levels of decision-making, invites the Economic and Social Council to assess the effectiveness of such integration and to make recommendations in this regard to the General Assembly, and requests the Commission for Social Development to give particular attention to this issue at its forthcoming sessions;

"6. *Invites* the different entities of the United Nations system actively to pursue the integration of economic and social policies in their respective domains;

"7. *Stresses*, in this regard, that the social development of developing countries and their capacity to pursue integrated socio-economic policies require their effective involvement and participation in international decision-making and norm-setting, including in international financial institutions, and calls upon all international institutions to take concrete measures to this end;

"8. *Reaffirms* that, given the growing and multifaceted interdependence of all regions and countries, coherent and strengthened international cooperation is the indispensable complement to the efforts of developing countries to promote their social development and reduce poverty and that such international cooperation should include a favourable external economic environment and the creation of a culture of conflict prevention and peace;

"9. *Recognizes* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, emphasizes in this regard that the notions of responsibility and accountability are applicable to all these actors, and calls upon the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system to incorporate these notions in their respective programmes of work;

"10. *Reaffirms* that education, employment creation and progress in working conditions, which are indispensable elements of poverty reduction, social integration, gender equality and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of national policies, and encourages current initiatives of the United Nations system to foster youth employment and the elaboration of comprehensive employment strategies;

"11. *Also reaffirms* the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimension of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"12. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the further implementation of the commitments made at Copenhagen and the further initiatives agreed upon at Geneva, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to have the primary responsibility in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

"13. *Recalls* its decision to review in 2005 the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the possibility to hold a major event in this context, and in this regard calls upon the Commission for Social Development to transmit, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly for its consideration in 2005, the substantial outcome of its review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and of its follow-up conference;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session."

8. At the same meeting, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At its 28th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.3/58/L.9/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.9 and Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. Also at the 28th meeting, the representative of Chile orally revised operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution by deleting the words "against women" after the words "persistent barriers".

12. At the same meeting, Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, the Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Latvia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, the Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Uganda joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised.

13. Also at the 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 15).

14. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Brazil and Malaysia (see A/C.3/58/SR.28).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

15. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session[2] constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits,

Recalling also the commitment to promote national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion,

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Considering that, despite the efforts made and the progress achieved in some areas of economic and social development, vast sectors of our societies, in particular in the developing and the least developed countries, are still facing serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality in income growth and distribution, education and health,

Noting that the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-third session in 2005, will consider as its priority theme "Review of the further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] A/58/172.

2. *Reaffirms* the need to take effective measures to implement the commitments made by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] which established a new consensus to place people at the centre of development policies and pledged to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration so as to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Also reaffirms* the decisions on further action and initiatives to accelerate social development for all, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session and contained in the further initiatives for social development;[2]

4. *Further reaffirms* that the aim of social integration is to create a "society for all", in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play, and that such an inclusive society must be based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and the special needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the rule of law;

5. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improving their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers;

7. *Stresses* that, in addition to social policies, progress in the realization of long-term goals, such as equity, social cohesion and an adequate accumulation of human capital, requires supportive and coherent short-term and long-term economic policies at the national and international levels;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of integrating economic and social policies in promoting human resources development and enhancing the process of development, invites the Economic and Social Council, at the highest possible level, to assess the effectiveness of such integration and make recommendations in this regard to the General Assembly, requests the Commission for Social Development to continue giving particular attention to this issue in its forthcoming sessions, and invites the different entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to take into account the integration of economic and social policies in their respective domains;

9. *Stresses* the necessity of ensuring the effective involvement of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process through, inter alia, greater participation in international economic forums, thereby ensuring the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions with respect to according a central position for social development in their policies and programmes;

10. *Reaffirms* that, given the growing and multifaceted interdependence of all regions and countries, coherent and strengthened international cooperation as well

as a favourable external economic environment are indispensable complements to the efforts of developing countries, including least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to promote their social development and eradicate poverty;

11. *Recognizes* that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries, and in this context stresses the importance of achieving sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, as well as mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international and financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

12. *Also recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and further recognizes that in order to build support for official development assistance, heads of State and Government have pledged further to improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness;

13. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards achieving the target of providing 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product as official development assistance to developing countries and from 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross domestic product as official development assistance to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[5] encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking an examination of the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

14. *Reaffirms* that recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, should strive to make official development assistance more effective;

15. *Underlines* the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction and the strengthening of their democratic systems, while reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that national policies have the leading role in the development process;

16. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, reaffirms also that, within countries, partnerships among the

[5] See A/CONF.191/11.

Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and underlines the fact, that at the international level, the recent initiatives towards building voluntary partnerships for social development should be encouraged and discussed further at, inter alia, the intergovernmental level;

17. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial, but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability;

18. *Reaffirms* that education, employment creation and improvement in working conditions, which are some of the indispensable elements of poverty eradication, social integration, gender equality and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of national policies, and recognizes the need to promote employment that meets labour standards as defined in relevant instruments of the International Labour Organization and other international instruments;

19. *Encourages*, in this context, current initiatives of the United Nations system on the elaboration of comprehensive employment strategies and measures to foster youth employment, bearing in mind relevant international instruments pertaining to youth;

20. *Reaffirms* the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimension of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

21. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the further implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives agreed upon at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to have the primary responsibility in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

22. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report with recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary body of the Council on its methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain

commissions, in particular by the Commission on Sustainable Development; the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Council should report to it no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

23. *Notes* its decision to review in 2005 the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration, and notes also that there is scope for a major event in this context, and in this regard calls upon the Commission for Social Development to transmit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the substantial outcome of its review of the further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly for its consideration in 2005;

24. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and the programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments and undertakings contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the further initiatives for social development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Assembly at that session.